



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
36000 DARNALL LOOP
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-4752

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCXI-CS-SO

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Independence Day Holiday Safety Message

1. On July 4th, our nation will celebrate Independence Day. In the 226 years since that historic event in 1776, this nation and our ancestors have endured many hardships and struggles to make this great country what it is today; and our commitment to the ideals of "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" have been tested several times. Our resolve to unity is still being tested today.
2. We in the military have a special role in this national celebration since it was soldiers – like those in our Army today – who fought for and secured our nation's independence. And, our soldiers proudly continue to defend freedom here and throughout the world. As we celebrate our nation's birthday and enjoy this four-day weekend with family and friends, I encourage all of you to remember the men and women who bravely fought and died for independence and for the freedom we thus enjoy.
3. During this holiday weekend, safety must be everyone's number one priority. To ensure all return home safely, leaders must adequately brief their soldiers on POV accident prevention and warm weather injuries. Direct leadership involvement can instill safety emphasis in all our soldiers. As a minimum, soldiers must be briefed on the following subjects prior to being released for the extended holiday weekend: POV safety (to include prevention of automobile and motorcycle collisions), stress to soldiers the importance of using seat belts, reducing their speed, using safe-passing techniques, and to avoid driving when fatigued; stress water safety (include preventive measures for swimming and boating related accidents); heat and stress injury prevention; and fireworks safety. Safety knowledge will save lives.
4. Alcohol consumption adversely affects ones judgment and represents risky behavior—I encourage all of you to refrain from using alcohol when engaged in water or outdoor sports, and when operating a motor vehicle, motorcycle or watercraft. If you choose to use alcohol this Independence Day weekend—be moderate and use a designated driver.
5. Finally, I invite all soldiers, family members, and civilians to come and help celebrate the 4th of July right here at the Great Place during Freedom Fest 2002. The day and evening activities will include numerous patriotic displays, fireworks, and fun activities for everyone. I look forward to the festivities and, again, I urge all of you, on July 4th, to remember our nation's birthday and the significant part each of you play in keeping America strong. God Bless.



DONALD J. KASPERIK
Colonel, Medical Corps
Commanding

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